IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A method for driving multiple applications (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n) by a common dialog management system (1) where a unique set of auditory icons (S_1, S_2, S_3, ..., S_n) is assigned to each application (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n), and where the common dialog management system (1) informs a user () of the status of an application (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n) by playback, at a specific point in a dialog flow, of a relevant auditory icon (I_1, I_2, I_3, ..., I_n) selected from the unique set of auditory icons (S_1, S_2, S_3, ..., S_n) of the respective application (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n).

2. (original) A method according claim 1, where the auditory icons (I_1, I_2, I_3, ..., I_n) of an application (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n) are played back to indicate to the user a change in operational status of an application (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n).

3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, where an application (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n) submits a set of auditory icons (S_1, S_2, S_3, ..., S_n) and associated instructions concerning the use thereof to the dialog management system (1).

4. (original) A method according to claim 3, where identifying information for the individual auditory icons (I_1, I_2, I_3, ..., I_n) of an application (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n) and associated instructions are obtained by the dialog management system (1), and the auditory icons (I_1, I_2, I_3, ..., I_n) are retrieved by the dialog management system (1), from the application (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n) upon request.

5. (original) A method according to claim 3, where the complete set of auditory icons (S_1, S_2, S_3, ..., S_n) of an application (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n) is acquired by the dialog management system (1) at the outset of a dialog flow between the user and the application (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n) or upon activation or installation of the application (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n).

6. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~claim 1, where the dialog management system (1) supplies an application (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n) with a unique set of auditory icons (S_1, S_2, S_3, ..., S_n), by modifying non-unique auditory icons (I_1, I_2, I_3, ..., I_n) in a set of auditory icons (S_1, S_2, S_3, ..., S_n) of the application (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n) and/or choosing unique auditory icons (I_1, I_2, I_3, ..., I_n) for the application (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n) from a collection (13) of auditory icons.

7. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~claim 1, where the set of auditory icons (S_1, S_2, S_3, ..., S_n) for playback in a dialog flow between a user and an application (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n) comprises at least one unique start auditory icon, for playback at commencement of the dialog flow and/or at least one unique end auditory icon, for playback at conclusion of a dialog flow.

8. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~claim 1, where the set of auditory icons (S_1, S_2, S_3, ..., S_n) for playback in a dialog flow between a user and an application (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n) comprises a number of unique informative auditory icons (I_1, I_2, I_3, ..., I_n), for playback at specific points during the dialog flow where each auditory icon (I_1, I_2, I_3, ..., I_n) describes a particular type of feedback from the application (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n).

9. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~claim 1, where auditory icons (I_1, I_2, I_3, ..., I_n) and/or playback characteristics of the auditory icons (I_1, I_2, I_3, ..., I_n) are specified for a user in a user profile (3).

10. (original) A dialog management system (1) for driving a

number of applications (A_1, A_2, A_3, …, A_n), comprising

- an input detection arrangement (4) for detecting user input (5) to the system;
- a sound output arrangement (6) for outputting audible prompt (7) ;
- a core dialog engine (8) for coordinating a dialog flow by interpreting user input (5) and generating output prompts ();
- an application interface (10) for communication between the dialog management system (1) and the applications (A_1, A_2, A_3, …, A_n);
- a source of unique sets of auditory icons (S_1, S_2, S_3, …, S_n) assigned to the applications (A_1, A_2, A_3, …, A_n);
- and an auditory icon management unit (11) for selecting relevant auditory icons (I_1, I_2, I_3, …, I_n) from the unique sets of auditory icons (S_1, S_2, S_3, …, S_n) corresponding to the applications (A_1, A_2, A_3, …, A_n) for playback at specific points in the dialog flow.

11. (original) A dialog management system (1) according to claim 11, comprising a means (15) for allowing the user to input auditory icons (I_1, I_2, I_3, …, I_n).

12. (currently amended) A dialog management system (1) according to claim 11 ~~or claim 12~~, comprising an interface (14) for obtaining sets of auditory icons (S_1, S_2, S_3, ..., S_n) or individual auditory icons (I_1, I_2, I_3, ..., I_n) from an external source (12)

13. (currently amended) A computer program product directly loadable into the memory of a programmable dialog management system (1) comprising software code portions for performing the steps of a method according to ~~claims 1 to 10~~claim 1 when said product is run on the dialog management system (1).